

A Vision of a Globally Responsible Wales

Introduction

The [Well-being of Future Generations Act \(2015\)](#) places a duty on Welsh Government and public bodies to work towards the seven inter-connected wellbeing goals. Of these seven goals, only one explicitly recognises Wales' impact on and relationship with the rest of the world – the Globally Responsible goal.

But we have a long way to go before we can claim to be a globally responsible nation. Wales currently uses far more than its fair share of the earth's resources ([Swaffield et al 2020](#)). We finance harmful practices through investments ([UK Divest, undated](#)). Our supply chains are not free from deforestation (Buckland et al, 2021). And not all our relationships with the rest of the world are rooted in partnership and equality (WCIA, 2021).

In order to make better progress, we need everyone involved in delivering the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act to understand the Globally Responsible Wales goal much better ([WWF/Welsh Government, 2018](#)). Some identify only the environmental dimension of the goal, or conflate global responsibility with progress on domestic goals like the reduction of poverty in Wales. Until recently, the indicators for this goal have been poorly defined and there are still insufficient milestones in place to drive forward progress. There is also evidence of inconsistency between policy commitments and practice. For example, the [International Strategy for Wales](#) places Global Responsibility as a central principle, but some of the actions in the strategy are not aligned with this goal ([WCIA, 2022](#)).

The [2020 Wellbeing of Future Generations report](#) recognises these shortcomings and makes a series of recommendations about how Welsh Government and public sector can respond. However, there is still a need for guidance and support for public bodies to take this forward in practice.

In this short paper, we have collected recommendations from organisations across the international sector and used these to present a possible vision of a globally responsible Wales. We also signposts some excellent resources and examples that have already been created to support delivery of the goal; and identify some of the key stakeholders in the international sector in Wales who are involved in these efforts.

Understanding the goal

“Any action to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.”

The Globally Responsible Wales goal requires us to consider how our actions here in Wales can make a positive contribution to global wellbeing. This goal reflects the people of Wales' care for the world and people outside of Wales, as highlighted in the [Wales We Want \(2014\)](#) and the civil society efforts to secure this goal in the Act.



The picture below gives an illustration that gives some examples which can help to explain what we mean by the goal – to make a positive contribution, we need to first stop doing harm. This means making strategic policy decisions not tokenistic gestures –systemic change at economic, social and ecological dimensions (NRW, 2022).



A vision of a globally responsible Walesⁱ

The table extrapolates from recommendations for a Globally Responsible Wales to create a vision of what Wales might look like and from which specific actions can be planned as appropriate to each public body. We've used a tool from Doughnut Economics to split these into social/environmental and local/global themes. To more strongly link these back to the 4 pillars of sustainability (social, cultural, economic and environmental), we've including cultural with the social dimension. Regarding the economic dimension, this is addressed in all 4 quadrants of the diagram. As with any model, this is a way of presenting the ideas that many have found useful, but it's important to continue to recognise that these dimensions are interlinked and overlapping.

Social/cultural dimension

Useful questions:

- *How can Wales respect the wellbeing of all people across the world? How do we contribute to peace and uphold human rights? Which brands & retailers sell their products in Wales? What are government procurement practices? What's the impact on workers & communities across the world? How else does Wales affect people worldwide? How do we take an inclusive approach in our international relationships and in regard to global issues? How can we avoid, directly or indirectly, contributing to harmful practices? How do we protect culture we are responsible for and advocate for the protection of culture elsewhere?*

Global

- **Behaviours** in international relations of all staff, volunteers and contractors are rooted in anti-racism, safeguarding, mutual respect and good partnership practice.
- International work (e.g. exchange, cultural, sporting and trade delegations) reflects the **diversity** of communities in Wales.
- **Communications** about international work avoids stereotypes and, instead, promotes positive and diverse images of people around the world.
- International plans and strategies **embed globally responsible principles** throughout, including those related to trade, investment, sport and culture.
- Social and environmental impacts are considered in efforts to attract **foreign direct investment**.

Local

- The people of Wales are **active global citizens**ⁱⁱ at home, in the workplace and in their communities, making a positive difference in the world.
- **Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship** is available throughout lifelong learning, including in workplace/professional learningⁱⁱⁱ.
- People have the skills for the jobs of the future.
- There is an honest and balanced dialogue about Wales' current, past and future impacts on and engagement with the world on themes such as slavery, sanctuary, sustainability, peace and environmental impact.
- Ethical and sustainable options are the easiest and cheapest for people to access.

- **Recruitment** campaigns for **migrant workers** are based on collaboration not competition so we are no longer contributing towards depletion of key staff in lower income countries.
- There is a commitment to support global initiatives for **public benefit**, such as vaccination access.
- Contributions from Wales to the [knowledge commons](#) ensure open access to vital information, including for example, vaccine formula.
- There is a **clear, strategic approach** to aid, solidarity and development within international plans and strategies developed from the grassroots up based on priorities of local communities, designed by and managed by them.
- There is support for school, community and organisational **international links and exchange** to develop intercultural links and to share expertise, skills and resources between partners around the world.
- Solidarity links and international exchange are rooted in **equitable partnership**.
- There is support for international projects that contribute towards the **Sustainable Development Goals**, including supporting female leadership, and for **DEC Appeals**.
- In trade, **good access** to the UK market for low- and middle-income countries, **trade democracy**, and **holistic impact assessment of new trade deals** based on the economy, social and environmental considerations.

Adapted from [Fair Trade Wales 2008](#), [Charmers et al 2021](#), [WCIA/Oxfam Cymru 2021](#) and [Chrisholm 2019](#)

- **Procurement is regulated and scrutinised so that all harmful practices (human rights abuses, including of indigenous people, poor working conditions, child labour, environmental harm) at home and overseas are spotted and eliminated.**
- **Procurement** benefits workers and communities throughout the supply chain.
- There are clear **Nation of Sanctuary** visions and strategies in public bodies in Wales that are timebound, regularly updated, monitored and budgeted which include:
 - Commitment to access all Welsh public services (including education and health) for everyone who needs them, regardless of immigration status, and the financial support to be able to fully access those services.
 - Integration from day one through orientation, language support, training and targeted support to develop skills and employment opportunities.
 - Effective support for employability and progression once in employment, through specific career pathways to priority sectors, volunteering, work related language skills and other training.
 - Safe and dignified accommodation for all.
- Duties under **international law** including human rights legislation are fulfilled.
- People from Wales have a voice in international affairs such as at UN conferences.
- **Cultural preservation** is prioritised such as the protection and celebration of UNESCO World Heritage sites in Wales.
- Land use is consummate with the well-being goals
- Fair Trade Nation criteria are reviewed and updated

Adapted from [Welsh Refugee Coalition \(undated\)](#), [WCIA/Oxfam Cymru 2021](#), [Buckland-Jones et al 2021](#), [Fair Trade Wales 2018](#)

Environmental dimension

Useful questions:

- *How can Wales respect the health of the whole planet? How can we decarbonise heating & transport? How can we create a circular economy? How can we produce locally to reduce our global impact? How can we be nature positive? How do lifestyles here put pressure on the planet? How do we ensure that creation of well-being in Wales does not come at the expense of those in other countries?*

Global

- **Wales' overseas land footprint** is accounted for.
- Greenhouse gas emissions **caused overseas** as a result of the deforestation and habitat loss associated with imports of commodities are reported and reduced.
- **Procurement** practices are free from social exploitation and harmful environmental impacts (including deforestation, arms trade, fossil fuels, and illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive goods).
- Public contracts include an **integrated impact assessment** which assesses risks within the companies' supply chains.
- Farmers in Wales don't **import livestock feed** that is linked to deforestation and habitat conversion overseas.
- **Finance arrangements**, including public sector pension funds ensure lending and investments are free from social exploitation and harmful environmental impacts (including deforestation, arms trade, fossil fuels and illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive goods).
- There is support for international projects and initiatives aimed at **preserving and restoring priority terrestrial and marine habitats including forests** in the main commodity-producing countries.

Local

- Wales is an eco- and carbon-literate nation and the climate and nature emergencies are widely understood (linked to the global citizenship in the social section).
- There are sustainable, well-paid jobs in the 'green' sector and an understanding of common global challenges is embedded across skills and competency frameworks.
- There is significant reduction of **greenhouse gas emitted** into the atmosphere in Wales.
- **Active travel** and **public transport** are prioritised and invested in.
- The **air is clean**, with fossil-fuel-free transport, including public transport.
- **Housing** is net zero and 30% of land is [set aside for nature](#).
- There are **20-minute neighbourhoods** all over Wales.
- **Wales's ecosystems** are monitored and restored.
- In **farming**, nature and climate friendly farming methods, such as organic, agroecological or agroforestry systems are the norm.
- There is diversity in Welsh forestry and timber economy - more than half of new tree cover is made up of native trees.

- **Trade agreements** guarantee high environmental and social standards, particularly around deforestation, accompanied by strict enforcement measures.

Adapted from [Buckland-Jones et al 2021](#) and [NRW 2020](#)

- **Food strategies** drive and reward local sustainable supply chains and, where local is not available, prioritise sustainable goods from overseas.
- Everyone has access to **biodiverse quality green space** in rural and urban areas.
- Habitats that lock in carbon deposits are retained and expanded.
- **Peatland is protected and restored**, and peat is not used for horticultural purposes.
- **Protected sites** are well-managed and sufficient to protect climate-critical habitats and species.
- The **marine environment** is protected and restored, harnessing the sea's carbon-storing potential and looking after habitats and species.
- **Marine litter** is eliminated.
- Vulnerable ecosystems and fish stocks are protected from damaging fishing practices and **sustainable fishing** is the norm.
- There are **sustainable levels of production and consumption** through improved efficiency and volume of resource use.
- The **life-cycle of natural resources**, from extraction through the design and manufacture of products, to using waste as a resource, is managed.
- The **full net costs** of products and services up to and including end of life management are shared fairly between producers and distributors.
- Physical goods are replaced with **digital services** where possible.
- **Sharing, re-use and resale** are the norm.
- **Renewables** are used instead of non-renewable resources (for example timber for steel).

Adapted from [Buckland-Jones et al 2021](#), [NRW 2020](#), [Sustrans 2021](#) and [Marine Conservation Society \(undated\)](#)

Implementing Global Responsibility

In implementation, embed the 5 ways of working. Use (paid and statistically representative) citizens assemblies and co-production methods so those impacted by actions are integral to their development. Throughout implementation, ensure public engagement and communication around areas such as:

- Consumer choices and the importance of product life cycle.
- Labels and certified products. For example, FSC-certified wood, furniture and paper, RSPO certified products containing palm, such as soap, cleaning products and baked goods, and Fairtrade coffee, sugar, chocolate and products containing cocoa, and organic or Pasture for Life certified 100% grass-fed beef, poultry, lamb and dairy products.
- The rationale for international engagement including solidarity, aid and development work.

Monitoring, evaluating, reflection and learning cycles are vital to understand impact and iterate improvements. This means further milestones for global responsibility.

Explaining the vision

The table above gives a vision of a globally responsible Wales and indicates some methods to reach that vision. This section goes into more detail about the recommendations and highlights some of the gaps that still exist. The table above and the detail below is explored through a Doughnut Economics lens.

The [Doughnut Economics model](#) is a useful way to conceptualise sustainable development – combining the dimensions of social justice with environmental sustainability. The ambition is that everyone (in the world) has a reasonable standard of living while living within our environmental limits. Below is a summary of recommendations that can be taken in Wales that helps (or at least doesn't hinder) people around the world having a reasonable standard of living without exceeding the earth's resources. These are loosely categorised into global/local and social/environmental lenses although, as with any categorisation, there is not a neat fit.

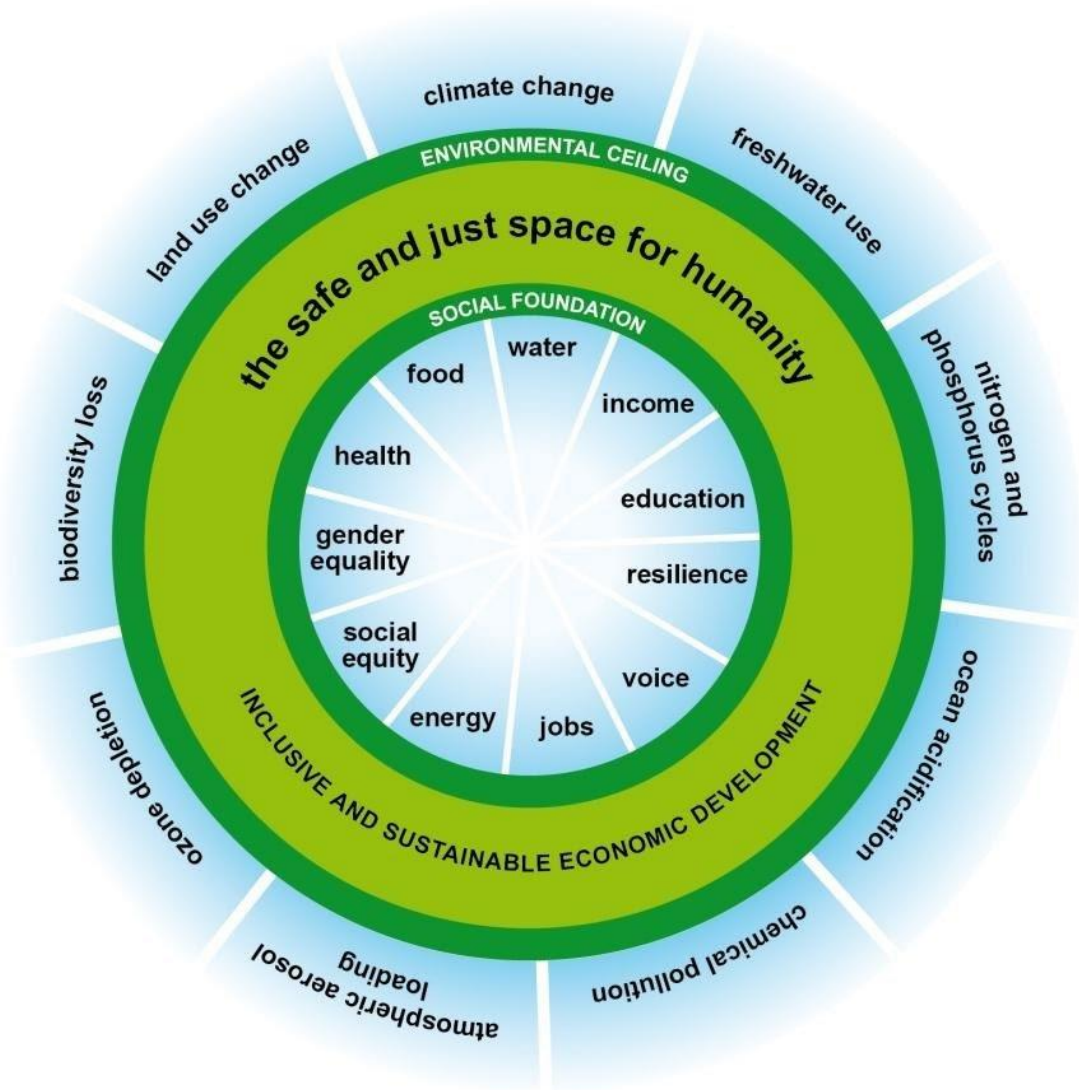


Figure 1 A visual representation of doughnut economics

Social/local lens

The people of Wales are active global citizens making a positive difference in the world from home, in the workplace and in their communities

To achieve this, Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship is available throughout lifelong learning, including in workplace/professional learning

Global responsibility depends upon Wales having a nation of global citizens with the knowledge, skills and values that enable sustainable decisions and behaviours. If unsustainable behaviours are to be socially unacceptable by 2030 ([p.6, Welsh Government 2022](#)), people in Wales need access to lifelong global learning opportunities. This should form part of Welsh Government's planned Public Engagement and Behaviour Change Strategies. Progress on this measure could be through indicator 46 'active global citizenship in Wales'.

- **Curriculum for Wales:** with ethical citizenship at its heart, the new curriculum is a huge opportunity to develop citizens who are globally responsible, **so long as** schools and teachers have access to the professional learning, resources and experiences to deliver across these complex topics.
- However, progress on active global citizenship and the 2030 target can only be achieved if we support those **further on in their education**, or already in the workplace with global learning opportunities. Secondary, further and higher education institutions should offer global learning opportunities. International exchange and partnership can supplement this but needs accompanying learning opportunities.

Example: members of the Wales Alliance for Global Learning offer a global citizenship professional learning for teachers and provide multiple teaching and learning resources via Hwb.

Example: As part of an Erasmus+ project called SDGS4U, [free online](#) modules have been developed for university students so they develop knowledge of the underpinning concepts of sustainability.

- **Professional development, lifelong learning and meaningful engagement:** Those who have left formal education also need Global Learning opportunities – for many, Climate and Citizens Assemblies have been shown to be effective both for learning and for communities to have a meaningful say in the necessary steps to tackle the challenges we face. Employers can also play a role in how they shape their professional development opportunities by including aspects of global learning adapted to their sector.
- **Skilled for the jobs of the future** ([Chapman et al 2021](#)): There are skills gaps in for the sectors where ‘green’ jobs are likely to be and the current skills pipeline is not equipped to support a more prosperous, green and equal economy in Wales. Many of the sectors where new jobs are likely to emerge are under-represented by women and those of racialised communities. There are opportunities to supply direct skills in decarbonisation and land management as well as ensuring all have the skills to embed sustainability in their workplace regardless of sector.
- A nation of global citizens means having **honest and balanced dialogue about Wales’ current, past and future, including exploring positive and negative impacts** on the world on themes such as slavery, sanctuary, deforestation and emissions through the industrial revolution and our heavy industries.

Examples: [Carbon Literacy](#) courses help individuals to understand their role in tackling climate change; Pilot online [Global Citizenship Modules](#) for NHS staff offer professional learning opportunities to develop as global citizens; [Community Assemblies](#) allow representative planning in response to the climate emergency.

It is right that there is recognition, pride and celebration where we have and continue to act in a globally responsible way. Examples include some of our history of sanctuary and solidarity, the Well-being of Future Generations Act itself, our commitment as the first Fair Trade Nation and as a Nation of Sanctuary and signing up to the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance – these deserve celebration. **However, we must also be honest and think critically about our role in the world;** we currently use far more than our fair share of the earth’s resources; the industrial revolution was driven by fossil fuels, many of which were mined in Wales; we’ve benefited from slavery; we still have harmful practices in our supply chains. We should be **open to these conversations in the spirit of continual reflection and improvement.**

Another dimension of this is the necessarily balanced and honest conversations about the future. Climate Change and biodiversity degradation has happened – we can reduce future climate change but some impacts are already inevitable. For example, more people will be displaced as extreme weather increases.

The majority of people chose ethical and sustainable consumer options

Currently, the ethical choice is (or is perceived to be) the more expensive or hard to access option and this needs to be flipped on its head. In the short term, it needs to be as easy as possible for consumers to see what they are buying in terms of ethical and sustainable credentials.

Schemes like Fairtrade make it easier for consumers of some products (tea, coffee, chocolate, cotton) but for others (electronic products, palm oil) it can be very difficult to find out what the ethical option is.

More transparent labelling is part of the picture, but it's also about making ethical options part of the 20 minute neighbourhood. Waste-free shops that also source brands with good human rights track records are good examples.

In the long term, it shouldn't be up to consumers to choose between a harmful or unarmful products – those that are harmful should not be available and legislative levers are appropriate here.

See 'sustainable production and consumption' in the local/environmental section for more on this topic.

Procurement is regulated and scrutinised so that all harmful practices (human rights abuses, poor working conditions, child labour, environmental harm) at home and overseas are spotted and eliminated.

Public sector Procurement can be an excellent lever to benefit workers and communities throughout the supply chain.

Procurement uses its expenditure to ensure that human rights abuses, modern day slavery, child labour, and poor working practices are eliminated from supply chains.

Procurement can also be used to address gender issues by supporting female leadership and tackling domestic violence through employers in supply chains, creating a positive impact on global well-being (WEN Wales et al 2018). To take an example, extractive mining industries which provide essential rare materials for the digital sphere can involve incredibly exploitative practices (for example, [conflict minerals](#)). If we increase our reliance on digital to reduce our carbon footprint, this dimension cannot be forgotten. There are useful resources available such as [Electronics Watch](#) that can be used to support better ICT choices.

Similarly, there are risks that when making efforts to protect biodiversity, the rights of indigenous people are not respected or protected – it is a consideration of the people and the planet elements in tandem that is essential in procurement (see, for example, ['Indigenous people are guardians of global biodiversity – but we need protection too'](#) | Reuters Events | Sustainable Business, [Indigenous Peoples: The unsung heroes of conservation \(archive.org\)](#))

Those involved in procurement need to have knowledge of these issues, and to show leadership for future generations. Pressure to keep prices low should not be an excuse to allow harmful practices in the supply chain. With significant price pressures, procurement workers need significant leadership support to consider these broader factors in their work.

See more on procurement in 'Environment/Local' section below.

In 2001, the City of Copenhagen set ambitious food targets for its municipal kitchens. Today, of the 70,000 meals served in approximately 1,000 institutions and facilities, including schools, care homes and staff canteens, almost 90% are made from organic ingredients using the same budget. This was achieved by working closely with food producers, investing in staff training, as well as kitchen renovations to improve storage of produce, and by providing advice on reducing food waste, such as menu planning, food production, presentation and serving methods. Some institutions even have arrangements in place with local shops, such as bakeries, to take surplus products, further reducing food waste.

Wales is a Nation of Sanctuary for all people fleeing conflict, persecution and the impacts of climate change

There is a clear Nation of Sanctuary vision and strategy in public bodies in Wales that are timebound, regularly updated, monitored, budgeted and include:

Wales has an ambition to be a welcoming place and a Nation of Sanctuary, and the UK public overall are [supportive of offering sanctuary](#) (British Red Cross). The [2018 Soft Power Barometer](#) (British Council, 2018) ranked Wales 7 out of the 10 countries/regions explored in terms of friendliness suggesting there are improvements in perception to be made. Hate crime is on the rise ([Home Office 2021](#) – could also be linked with improvements in reporting) some of which is targeted at people seeking sanctuary, suggesting there is still a way to go in these ambitions.

Encouragingly, we have seen a much more vocal approach from public sector leaders to Wales' role as a nation of sanctuary, not least in the latest humanitarian crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and in the strong opposition within Wales to the Nationality and Borders Bill.

To become a true nation of sanctuary means:

- A commitment for **access to all Welsh public services** (including education and health) for everyone who needs them, regardless of immigration status, and the financial support to be able to fully access those services. This requires sufficient local authority funding.
- **Integration from day one** through orientation, language support, training and targeted support to develop skills and employment opportunities.
- Effective **support for employability and progression** once in employment, through specific career pathways to priority sectors, volunteering, work related language skills and other training.
- **Safe and dignified accommodation** for all.

Wales sets an example by fulfilling all its obligations under international law

Part of being globally responsible is not contradicting values espoused overseas with behaviours at home. This policy coherence means respecting and holding to the principles of international law.

Wales already has good practice in this space, for example, in enshrining Children's Rights into law, and making strong commitments to providing sanctuary for refugees.

Other commitments include:

- incorporating recommendations on better embedding the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) into Wales ([WEN, 2019](#))
- Fulfilling commitments made at COP26, including those related to deforestation and moving beyond oil and gas
- Ensuring human rights are embedded in Wales, particularly if UK Government makes significant changes in its proposed Bill of Rights

Examples: The Climate Cymru and [Climate Sunday](#) campaigns are both good examples of how voices from Wales were taken to COP26 to form part of a wider global climate movement.

Cultural preservation must be prioritised, such as the protection and celebration of UNESCO World Heritage sites in Wales.

As well as fulfilling obligations, where appropriate, people in Wales should also have a voice in international affairs where Wales has a role.

Land use in Wales is aligned with the well-being goals

CND Cymru have highlighted that land use in Wales includes military uses that contribute to human rights abused overseas, for example, the training of pilots involved in the attacks on Yemen. There are also concerns highlighted about the use of land for nuclear power given concerns about nuclear waste.

Social/global lens

Behaviours in international relations of all staff, volunteers and contractors are rooted in anti-racism, mutual respect and good partnership practice.

This builds naturally on the development of people as global citizens, by ensuring behaviours in international relations build on those foundations.

There is a gap here in terms of baseline information about how well this is currently done. Much work has been done regarding anti-racism, good partnership practice and safeguarding in the solidarity space in Wales, but it is unclear to what degree this is applied across wider international activity in Wales.

Values-based international behaviours: all those involved in public sector interactions between Wales and the world (staff, volunteers, exchange placements, contractors) should be able to:

- Expected behaviours in safeguarding, human rights due diligence, power dynamics and inclusivity. The gender and intersectionality dimensions are important here.
- Ensuring ambassadors and materials shared represent the diversity within our communities here in Wales
- Ensuring partnerships between Wales and the world embed equitable partnership principles

Examples: Hub Cymru Africa provide safeguarding and anti-racism training and support to Wales Africa groups.

Successful Partnerships training is offered to schools in Wales partnering with schools around the world to support partnerships to be ethical, equitable and sustainable.

International plans and strategies embed globally responsible principles throughout, including where related to trade, investment, sport and culture

Specific policies and practices should be sense-checked against global responsibility. For example, are **investments** conducive to peace and well-being of people here in Wales and around the world? Have they been impact assessed for human rights, gender and equality?

For example, we saw a £10 million investment from Welsh Government in the Thales Group. Among other technologies, Thales Group are responsible for the Watchkeeper aerial surveillance system which was developed in partnership with Elbit Systems based in Israel for use in Palestine and it has also been used to monitor refugees crossing the Channel as part of Home Office border control measures. While being open to considering all business opportunities, Wales must take every opportunity to make clear that it will work with others who share their/our values and commitments, and may need to turn down opportunities that contradict them.

In England, of the top 10 countries NHS staff are currently **recruited** from, 7 are low and middle income countries which exacerbates gaps in health services overseas ([Chrisholm 2019](#)). While the data is based

on England, the report highlights that Wales also relies on international recruitment to fill staffing gaps. There are a number of practical recommendations in the report for the health sector. However, we can apply the lessons more broadly to ensure recruitment campaigns for migrant workers are based on collaboration not competition.

Diaspora communities living in Wales contribute significantly to our communities, economy, international profile and the vibrancy of our faith and spiritual life, help develop civic-to-civic links and remittances from some diaspora communities are an important financial contribution for their home countries. We recommend that diaspora engagement is increased and that the needs and sensitivities of diaspora communities are considered more consistently, for example when visits are planned from government representatives or diplomats.

To support this goal:

- International work (e.g. exchange, cultural, sporting and trade delegations) should reflect the diversity of communities in Wales
- Communications about international work should avoid stereotypes and, instead, promotes positive and diverse images of people around the world

As above, there is little comprehensive research into these areas, but in workshops about global responsibility, participants felt there was more work to be done here (WCIA 2021)

In trade, there is good access to the UK market for low and middle income countries, trade democracy, and holistic impact assessment of new trade deals based on the economic, social and environmental considerations

Trade deals fall outside devolved competencies but it is a devolved competence to implement international agreements entered into by the UK, including trade deals, so there is policy space to use any available lever to influence these UK-level trade deals as they emerge over the coming years.

If we do not have sufficient safeguards in place, new trading arrangements could see an increase in deforestation risk commodities coming into Wales, such as beef, soy, palm oil, coffee and cacao, thereby driving deforestation even higher. These imports could also undermine local economies in Wales, with the influx of cheaper imports the impact of which is already having a significant impact on Wales' Overseas Land Footprint (Buckland-Jones et al 2021).

Trade deals should:

- involve civil society and elected representatives (both devolved, UK and countries where the trade deal is being agreed) in scrutiny of new trade deals
- Holistic impact assessment of new trade deals and their impact on vulnerable economies, not just based on the economy but also taking social and environmental considerations into account, for example, in the sharing of intellectual property rights
- Have strict enforcement measures
- Take due regard of protecting people's data and privacy rights

The new Trade Justice Wales network hosted by Fair Trade Wales and the Wales Governance Centre will develop expertise, evidence and support with training in this space which should be taken up by public bodies

There are contributions towards global approaches for public benefit

The 'commons' traditionally refers to physical commons – things of shared benefit to all, that we should all have a role in maintaining (a village green for example). The 'knowledge commons' is a similar idea but refers to information, often in a digital space (Wikipedia for example). Much knowledge is hidden behind pay walls, or is otherwise inaccessible. By committing to open source publication and publishing the results of all research (whether a success or failure) public bodies can contribute to the knowledge commons, meaning others around the world can benefit from work done here. European funding gave impetus to open source publication through collaborative partnership projects. This approach should be retained post-Brexit.

Examples: The People's Vaccine campaign saw pressure put on wealthier governments to ensure the COVID-19 Vaccination was available for everyone around the world.

Beyond the knowledge commons, there is also potential to support and deliver more physical impacts. This might take the form of technology transfer. It might also involve supporting global campaigns to, for example, support vaccination access.

There is a clear, strategic approach to aid, solidarity and development within international plans and strategies

Welsh Government and some public bodies show commitment to international linking, solidarity, international development and aid. This is seen, for example, in support for Hub Cymru Africa, DEC Cymru, tree-planting and livelihoods work, and several health boards' commitments to health links. However, a more coherent and strategic approach in this space would be helpful to draw more public bodies and institutions on board, to avoid duplication and to maximise impact. There are recommendations for the [Health Sector here](#), and these lessons might equally apply to other parts of the public sector in Wales including importance of regular monitoring and information gathering, the need for non-siloed working, the opportunities to stimulate innovation in Wales from our global partnerships and, where we have expertise to offer, to share practice and skills with partners around the world.

Solidarity should start with young people. Programmes like Taith can support international exchange between young people so long as it embeds the aforementioned behaviours and is open to **all** young people in Wales. For professionals outside the education sector, Health Links offer an example of what could be possible across the public sector in terms of opportunities to share skills, expertise and resources in mutually beneficial partnerships. It's vital that these links and partnerships are equitable.

For funded international development projects, such as though the Wales Africa grants scheme, there should be clear outcomes that contribute across the Sustainable Development Goals. Gender and intersectionality considerations (WEN Wales & Oxfam Cymru 2020) should be embedded in these projects. For emergency situations, budget can be set aside with some transparent processes for how such funds will be allocated (for example, for DEC Appeals and COVID response).

[Localisation in humanitarian](#) (British Red Cross) and international development responses is also vital with priorities defined and programmes led from the grassroots.

Environmental/local lens

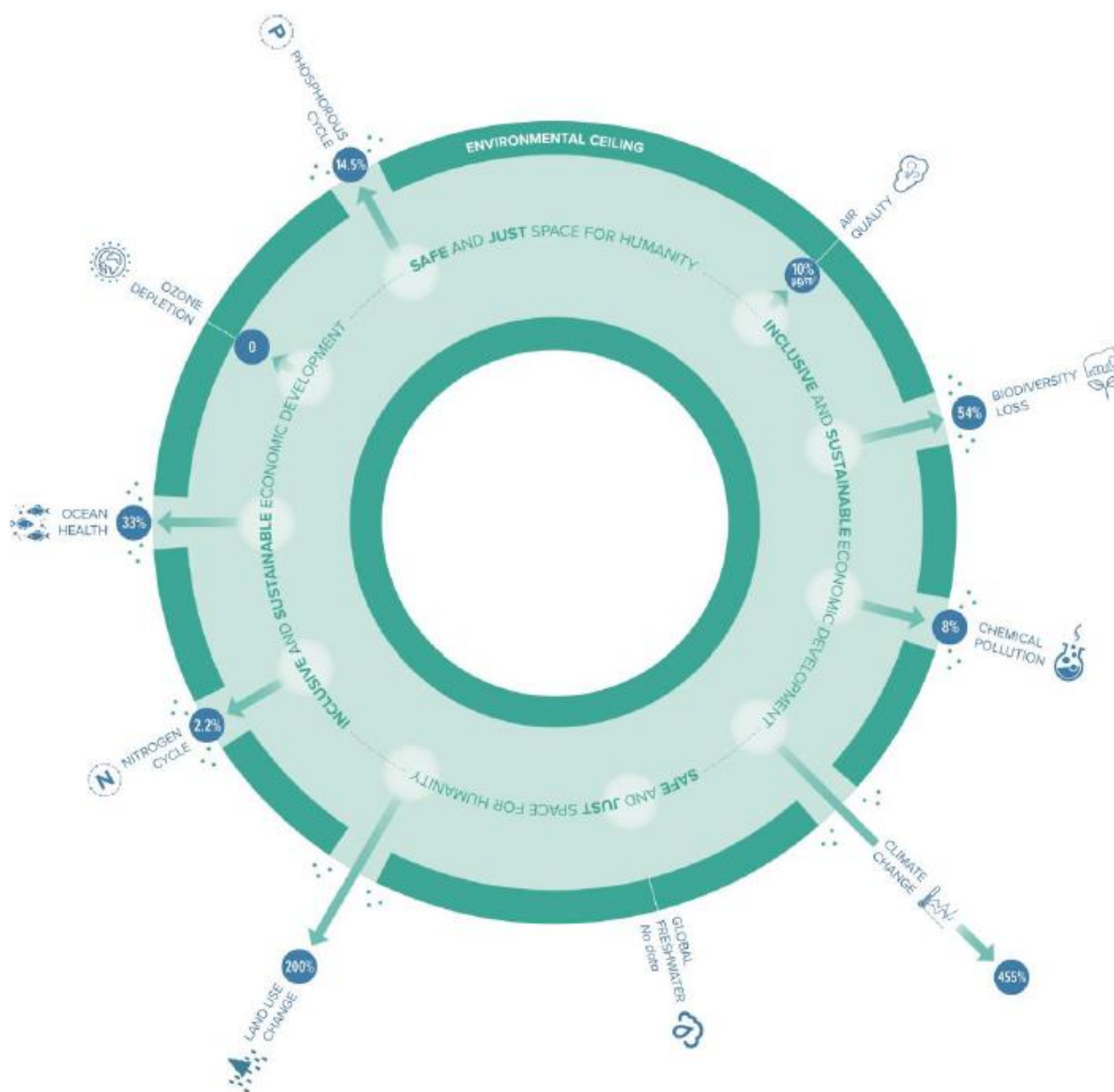


Figure 2 2020 Welsh Doughnut - Environmental Ceiling

Before a closer examination of the environmental dimension, it is important to briefly consider the relationship between the environmental and social. Popular narratives often set these up in competition with each other (for example, suggesting we ditch green levies and start fracking in response to the cost-of-living-crisis), but this is inaccurate and disguises a complex picture.

Using the language of the doughnut (see page 8), changes to the environmental ceiling and social floor can and do influence each other but not in a linear manner. For example, it's possible to smash through environmental limits while still having millions of people far below the social floor (as is the case now). Moreover, continuing to smash through the environmental ceiling will have hugely detrimental impacts on people's ability to stay above the social floor as they are displaced by extreme weather or face food and water shortages.

However, it is also true that some approaches to reducing our environmental impact can also impact negatively on people. We must limit our environmental impact in such a way as to continue to lift people above the social floor. Those living below the social floor are least likely to have contributed to exceeding our environmental limits so shouldn't be the ones to pay the price as we reduce our impact.

Wales has a regenerative well-being economy

We need to radically shift our economy towards a regenerative model ([NRW 2020](#)). Welsh Government has joined the Wellbeing Economy Alliance and there is an active Wellbeing Economy movement in Wales. Welsh Government could develop greater public attention for their membership of the [Wellbeing Economy Alliance](#) and it should be more explicit in economic policy making. A shift to a well-being economy means protection for people and planet so long as that outlook on well-being for people in Wales **and** the wider world is retained.

This shift has the potential to create employment opportunities (Chapman et al, 2019; [RSPB 2021](#)) providing the considerations highlighted in the 'social/local' lens are considered.

Wales is decarbonised

We need significant reduction of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere through areas like:

- **Energy:** We need to stop using fossil fuels as part of the energy mix
- **Transport :** Private cars are still the prevailing transport choice and change is hampered by poor and expensive public transport infrastructure and safety issues surrounding active travel. Active travel and public transport must become the default around which our infrastructure is built. Low or zero emissions transport means clear air.
- **Housing:** Urgent need for retrofitting insulation and lower carbon or, where possible, fossil fuel free heating systems and fossil fuel free or Passivhaus standard heating systems.

Wales' ecosystems are protected and monitored

Everyone should have access to quality green space in rural and urban areas. Initiatives like requiring 30% of new building developments to be set aside for nature would help, along with retaining and expanding habitats that lock in carbon deposits such as peatland. Peat shouldn't be used for horticultural purposes. Protected sites should be well-managed and sufficient to protect climate-critical habitats and

species

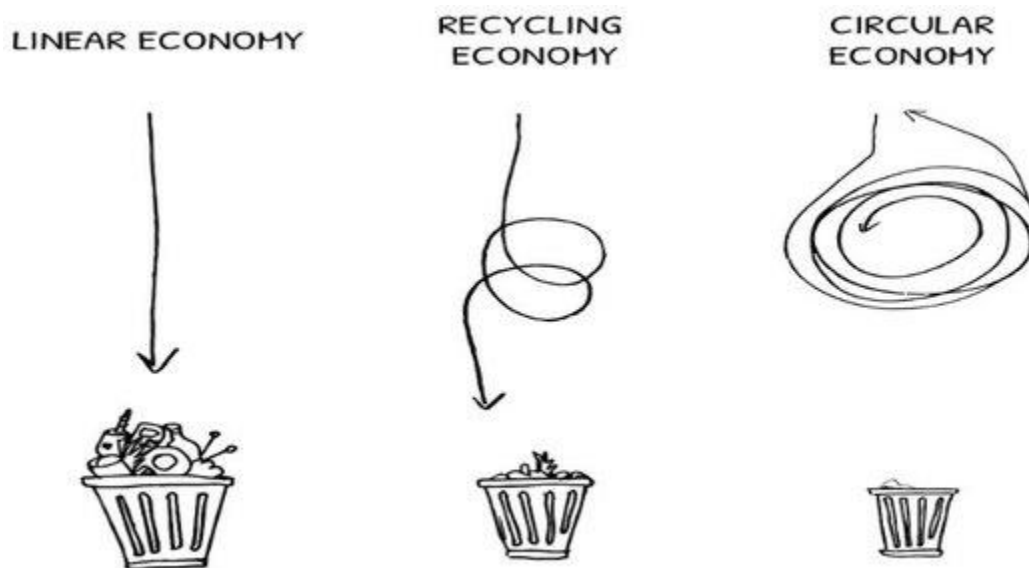
The **marine environment** should be protected and restored, harnessing the sea's carbon-storing potential and looking after habitats and species. Marine litter needs to be reduced and, ultimately, eliminated. Vulnerable ecosystems and fish stocks must be protected from damaging fishing practices

In farming, the forthcoming Agriculture Bill gives an opportunity to support nature and climate friendly farming methods, such as organic, agroecological or agroforestry systems. Also needed is diversity in Welsh forestry and timber economy with a focus on native trees.

Food strategies should relate to sustainable farming and drive and reward local sustainable supply chains.

Wales achieves sustainable production and consumption

Far too much of our production and consumption is linear rather than circular, with high resource use and high waste. Use of smart and innovative technologies, renewable energy generation, social procurement and nature-based solutions can improve the sustainable use of our natural resources



- The life-cycle of natural resources, from extraction through the design and manufacture of products, to using waste as a resource is managed.
- Encouragement to buy high quality products that last a long time and that can be repaired is advisable. The role of repair cafes is important as is making sure products are designed and built to be repairable
- The life-cycle costs of products and services are fairly shared between producers and distributors
- Physical goods are replaced with digital services where possible
- Sharing, re-use and resale are the norm
- Renewables replace non-renewables in construction. There are tools that can help with the selection of more sustainable construction materials. For example, <https://www.materialepyramiden.dk/>.

Environmental/global lens

Wales moves from using more than its fair share of the earth's resources to making a positive contribution to global environmental wellbeing



Figure 3 2020 illustration of Wales exceeding its environmental limits in several domains. Reproduced with permission from Oxfam Cymru

Wales currently uses far more of the earth's resources than is proportionally fair, and certainly more than is sustainable as the 'Welsh Doughnut 2020' image above shows. There is a milestone for Wales to use only its fair share of the earth's resources by 2050 but there are some problems with this approach:

- That means we plan to use more than our fair share for decades to come which will cause harm to current and future generations here in Wales and around the world.
- What do we mean by 'fair share'? Does this take into account historical emissions? And who makes this decision.

A better approach would be a commitment to make a positive contribution to environmental wellbeing through a regenerative economy and excellent practice with regards to the export of environmental impacts through supply chains and consumption. We should ensure:

- Consumption emissions are reported and reduced
- Wales' overseas land footprint is accounted for ([Buckland-Jones et al 2021](#))
- Greenhouse gas emissions caused overseas as a result of the deforestation and habitat loss associated with imports of commodities are reported and reduced
- Procurement policies have a requirement for supply chains to be free from deforestation, conversion and social exploitation
- Farmers in Wales are supported to eliminate imported livestock feed that is linked to deforestation and habitat conversion overseas
- Companies develop concrete, time-bound and ambitious action plans and policies to commit to supply chains that are free from deforestation, conversion and social exploitation.
- Finance arrangements, including public sector pension funds ensure lending and investments are free from deforestation, conversion and social exploitation.
- There is support for international projects and initiatives aimed at preserving and restoring forests in the main commodity-producing countries
- Trade agreements guarantee high environmental and social standards, particularly around deforestation, accompanied by strict enforcement measures.

In the last section, we mentioned prioritising local, regenerative practices in supply chains and consumption. In considering the impact globally, supply chain length and distance is crucial, but also intensity of production practices should be considered. For some products, sourcing overseas can be less carbon intensive ([Deforestation free](#) toolkit).

It's a less well-explored area but, as there is a shift to digital, the digital footprint should be considered. Activities associated with digital (data storage, streaming, crypto currencies) are not carbon neutral and sometimes can be more carbon intensive than physical activities.

It's also vital to recognise the potential environmental and social degradation from the mining of minerals required for devices (link – conflict minerals vs sky diamonds)

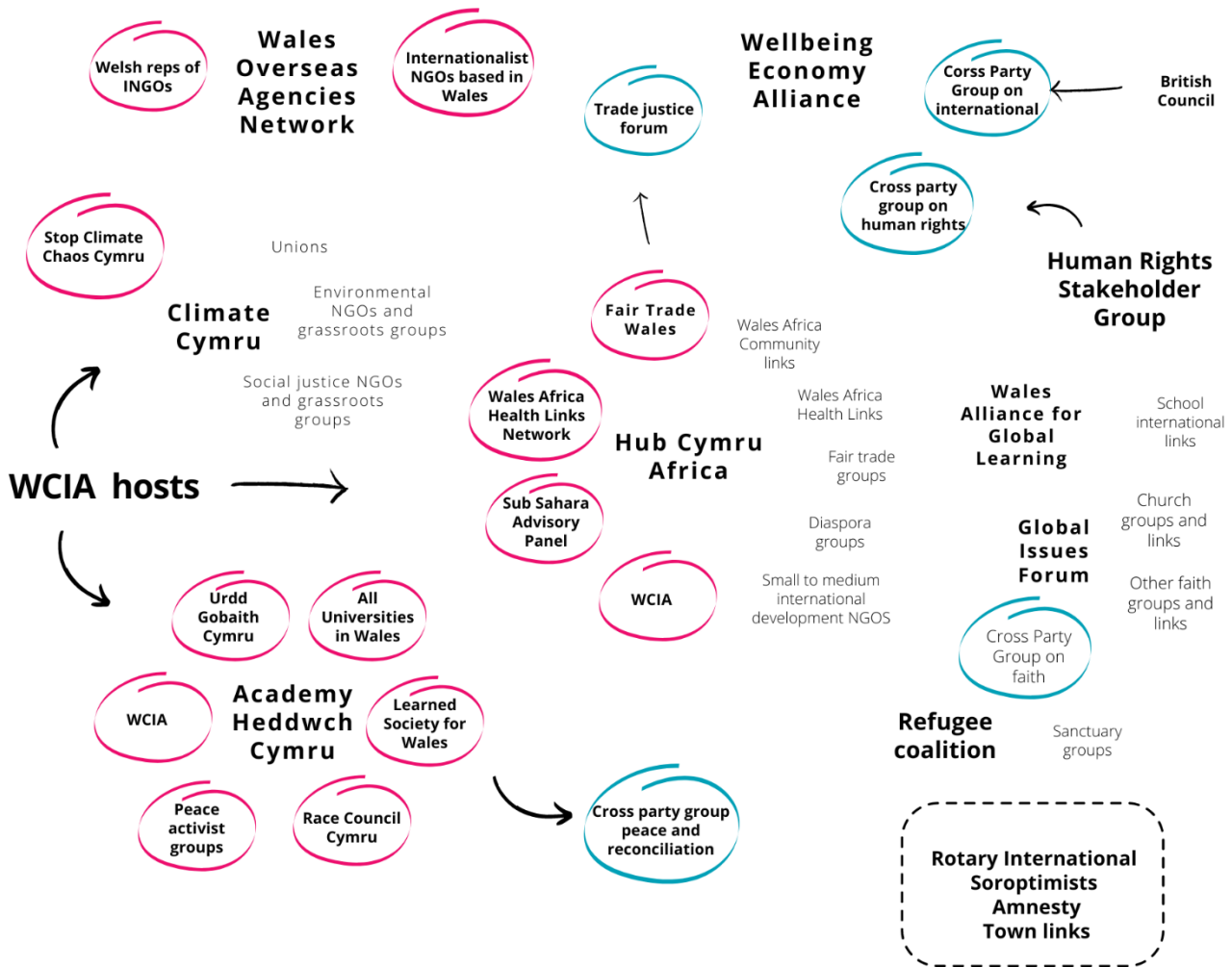
Examples: Size of Wales' [Deforestation Free toolkit](#) is helpful for reducing social and environmental harms in supply chains

Conclusions and next steps

- Although there are still gaps, the overall environmental impacts of Wales have been better measured than the social, cultural and economic impacts. This makes it easier to make concrete recommendations and targets surrounding this impact than in the social sphere. There is a research gap in understanding where we currently are in terms of our impact on the wider world. It is unlikely that we will be able to develop a full picture of this, but research in discrete areas, such as procurement, could improve how we deliver the vision of a globally responsible Wales.
- This document represents a snapshot of recommendations and some tools available to the public sector in their transition to global responsibility. To make the journey to global responsibility easier, a web-based resource that can be grown and developed, with links to recommendations in different spheres, along with tools and examples, would be valuable. Also facilitated discussion and training for PSBs to better understand the goal and find the relevant examples would be helpful.
- The international sector in Wales is relatively small but still consists of a large number of organisations with differing levels of capacity to engage in policy-focused work. Nonetheless, these organisations represent a huge wealth of knowledge and experience that could support the public sector in a transition to global responsibility. Creating opportunities for those in different sectors to come together and share expertise would be valuable with some funding available to support the involvement of organisations and experts where they don't have sufficient capacity.

International sector organisation map

The map is an illustration of the sector and some of the connections between areas. It's important to recognise that there is a lot of overlap in members. For example, many members of the Wales Overseas Agencies Group are also members of the Stop Climate Chaos Cymru Coalition. There will inevitably be missing links and areas that are less well mapped. For example, Hub Cymru Africa works most closely with community links between Wales and Africa so will have less of a clear map of organisations linked with other nations, such as India.



References

Buckland-Jones, S., Cooper H., Evans R., Jennings, S., Munkedal, C. and Rahman-Daultry, K. (2021) [Wales and Global Responsibility: Addressing Wales' Overseas Land Footprint](#), WWF, RSPB and Size of Wales, accessed 14 March 2022.

Chapman, A. and Kiberd, E. (2021) *Skills Through Crisis: Upskilling and (Re)training for a Green Recovery in Wales*, New Economics Foundation, accessed 25 March 2021.

Charmers, Dr K. and Okeah, B (2021) al 2021 [International Health Activity in Wales: Rapid Review](#), THET, accessed 15 March 2022.

Chrisholm, G (2019) [From Competition to Collaboration: Ethical leadership in an era of health worker mobility](#), accessed 20 March 2022

Cynnal Cymru (2014) [The Wales We Want](#), accessed 20 March 2020.

De Souza, P.R. (2021) [Knowledge Commons and Enclosures](#), UNESCO, accessed 20 March 2020.

Fair Trade Wales (2008) [Wales as a Fair Trade Nation](#) , accessed 20 March 2020

Home Officer(2021) [Hate Crime, England and Wales, 2020-2021](#), accessed 21 March 2022

Marine Conservation Society (undated) [Advocacy and Influencing Policy Makers](#), accessed 20 March 2022.

McClory, J. (2018) [Wales Soft Power Barometer 2018](#), British Council and Portland, accessed 21 March 2022.

Natural Resources Wales (2020) [The Second State of Natural Resources Report \(SoNaRR2020\) Executive Summary](#), accessed 15 March 2020

RSPB (2021) [What could a National Nature Service do for Wales?](#) Accessed 23 March 2022.

Size of Wales (undated) [Deforestation Free Procurement Toolkit](#), accessed 20 March 2022.

Sustrans (2021) [Sustrans 2021 Manifesto](#), accessed 20 March 2022.

Swaffield, L and Egan, D. (2020) [The Welsh Doughnut 2020: A Framework for Environmental Sustainability and Social Justice](#), Oxfam Cymru, accessed 22 March 2022

UK Divest (undated) [Divest your council](#), accessed 25 March 2022.

UNESCO (undated) [What is Global Citizenship Education?](#) accessed 26 March 2022.

WCIA (2022) [WCIA follow-up written evidence for The Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee one-day inquiry on international relations on 2nd February 2022](#) (pp.75-78) accessed 22 March 2022

Well-being of Future Generations Commissioner (2020) [A Globally Responsible Wales](#), accessed 22 March 2022

Well-being of Future Generations Commissioner (undated) [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#), accessed 15 March 2022

Welsh Centre for International Affairs (2021) [What does a globally responsible Wales look like and how do we get there?](#) Accessed 15 March 2022

Welsh Government (2020) [International Strategy](#), accessed 22 March 2022.

Welsh Government (2021) [Working Together to Reach Net Zero](#), accessed 21 March 2021.

Welsh Refugee Coalition (undated) [Nation of Sanctuary – making the vision a reality](#), accessed 20 March 2022

WEN Wales and Oxfam Cymru (2020) [Feminist Scorecard 2020](#), accessed 25 March 2022

WWF and Welsh Government (2018) [*All Together! Pointers for Action from the Wellbeing of Future Generations New Year Workshops 2018*](#), accessed 22 March 2022

ⁱ We've used a Doughnut Economics tool to group the recommendations into global/local and social/environmental dimensions noting that the [Welsh Doughnut report \(2020\)](#) shows that there are people in Wales below the social floor while we are smashing through the environmental ceiling in many dimensions. While using the doughnut model as a tool, we are focused on, for the globally responsible Wales goal, bringing people in the world above a social floor while not shooting through our global environmental ceiling. As all well-being goals are interconnected, many of these recommendations bring benefits across the goals.

ⁱⁱ There are a number of definitions of an 'active global citizen'. According to UNESCO, an active global citizen is empowered to act locally and globally to secure peaceful, tolerant and secure societies. They have the knowledge, values, attitudes, thinking and social skills and behaviours to support sustainable development including human rights, gender equality, a culture of peace and non-violence and appreciation of cultural diversity.

ⁱⁱⁱ Including peace education, global citizenship education, environmental education and rights-based education.